

FIG. 1.—FRAGMENT OF CROSS-SHAFT AT MILLOM.

Photos. by J. Penny, Millom.

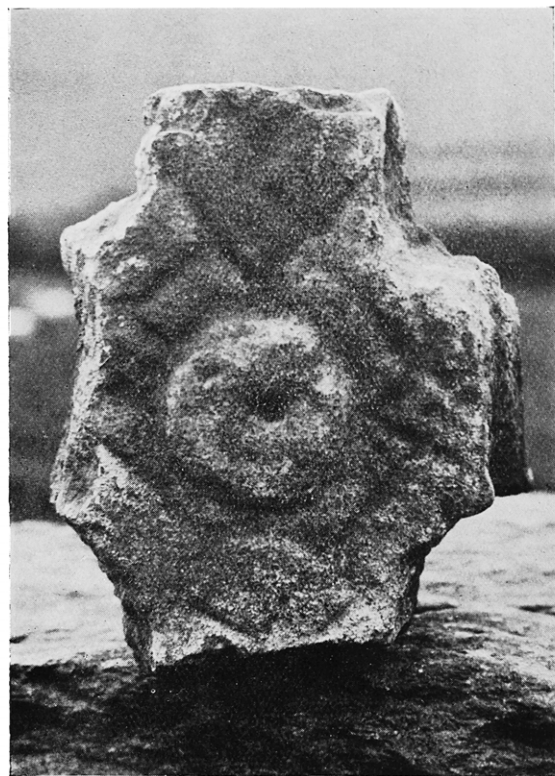


FIG. 2.—FRAGMENT OF CROSS-HEAD AT MILLOM.

ART. XIII.—*Newly-discovered sculptured and inscribed stones at Millom.* By FRANK WARRINER.

Read at Penrith, September 17th, 1930.

THE restoration of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Millom, has brought to light a fragment of a cross shaft and the centre of the head.

I. The broken shaft (fig. 1) was found in the north wall of the chancel, eight or nine feet above floor level, at the point from which the chancel arch springs, a position which suggests that it may have found its way there during the building of the arch after the close of the Boyvil period, probably towards the close of the thirteenth century. It is of red sandstone, measuring 20 inches by 15 inches and about eight inches in thickness. One of the longer edges has a cable moulding; one side only is ornamented. The pattern is incised, the edges of the cuts being in no way rounded to give the effect of relief. Two tight knots remain intact and there are remains of two others. The motive is Stafford knots arranged in a double row (J. Romilly Allen, *Early Christian monuments of Scotland*, No. 601). The central lines cross through a rhomboid buckle; at a broken edge of the shaft is the angle of a second rhomboid. The knots and straps are roughly and unskilfully worked and very little weathered. The fragment has now been rebuilt, as a coign stone, into the north-east corner of the chancel.

II. The centre of a cross-head (fig. 2) was discovered in the filling of the same wall, but its position relative to the shaft is unknown. It has apparently been a wheel head; in the curves of the arms can still be seen marks of the mason's pick. Almost in the centre is a small boss

about two inches in diameter, in the centre of which a small hole has been sunk. The diagonal distance from armhole to armhole across the boss is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the distance between the broken arms about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the thickness of the stone is six inches. Around the boss are a number of criss-cross lines forming no pattern but giving the effect of plait work. This stone has been built into the wall above fragment I.

The style of work suggests a late date for the cross to which these two fragments belong, the late eleventh or early twelfth centuries, thus placing it in the same series as the Adel cross and Kirkclaugh and Minnigaff slabs—the two latter being found at Norman mottes. The walls of the chancel have undergone so much alteration that they cannot be definitely dated, although the north wall undoubtedly contains Norman work. The cross therefore throws no light upon the question of a pre-Boyvil cell.

III. Towards the east end of the north chancel wall was found a slightly curved sandstone slab, somewhat weathered, $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 15 inches and $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. On one of the shorter sides is incised ANTEF, the letters varying in size from $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to three inches. It has been inserted above the ambry niche in the chancel.

Mr. R. G. Collingwood writes: "The stone seems Roman to me. I think of CUR]ANTE F[LAVIO . . . The person in charge of a piece of construction is often mentioned in *late* inscriptions (say 3rd century), and the lettering here suggests a late date. Roman inscriptions cut on the edge, as opposed to the face, of a stone are fairly common. Having regard to the possibility of bringing such a stone from Ravenglass, I should not argue from it to the existence of a Roman site at or near Millom."

IV. A fragment of buff-coloured sandstone, seven inches by 16 inches, was also found; its position in the chancel wall is unknown. There are two deeply incised arcs of circles (in one place the incision is half an inch deep).



FIG. 3.—INSCRIBED STONE AT MILLOM.

Photo. by J. Penny, Millom.

TO FACE P. 120.

SCULPTURED AND INSCRIBED STONES AT MILLOM. 121

One well-executed crosslet and part of another remain; The complete crosslet and imperfect circle suggest an orb and cross. This fragment seems to be part of a grave-slab. It is now built in below the sill of the S.W. window of the Huddleston Chapel.